

Message Text

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60

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 NIC-01 COME-00 IO-10 /087 W

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R 071401Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1596

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMCONGEN CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONGEN LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PEKING

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1953

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, CF, PFOR, AO, PO, OAU

SUBJECT: CABINDA: ZAIRE AND CONGO CLAIM SPECIAL INTEREST

REF: BAMAKO 0754 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY ZAIRE AND CONGO SEEM TO HAVE AGREED, AT LEAST FOR TIME
BEING, ON A COMMON PUBLIC POSITION ON CABINDA FAVORING
INDEPENDENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. REFTEL CITES REPORT THAT CONGOLESE FONMIN GANAO SPOKE ABOUT
CABINDA IN NAMES OF BOTH PRESIDENTS NGOUABI AND MOBUTU AT FEBRUARY
MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA OF OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (COM). HE
REPORTEDLY ARGUED IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENT STATUS FOR CABINDA.

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WEEKLY JEUNE AFREQUE FOR MARCH 7 PUBLISHED REPORT FROM ADDIS

INDICATING THAT GANAO ALSO MADE POINT AT COM THAT ZAIRE AND CONGO HAVE SPECIAL INTEREST IN ANY OAU DECISION REGARDING STATUS OF CABINDA.

2. KINSHASA DAILY ELIMA FOR MARCH 6 CARRIED ARTICLE ENTITLED "ZAIRE AND CONGO HAVE ADOPTED SAME POSITION ON CABINDA" AND SUBTITLED "CABINDA IS NOT INTEGRAL PART OF ANGOLA." ARTICLE REPORTS AT LENGTH ON A RECENT MEETING IN PEKING BETWEEN CONGOLESE PRIME MINISTERS LOPES AND RESIDENT AFRICAN AMBASSADORS. LOPES REPORTEDLY POINTED OUT THAT CABINDA'S CASE IS SPECIAL BECAUSE, UNLIKE KATANGA AND BIAFRA,

IT IS SITUATED OUTSIDE ANGOLA. HE ADDED THAT WILL OF CABINDAN PEOPLE IS BEING FLOUTED BY "OUR ALLIES" THE ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS WELL BY THE "ESSENTIALLY PROGRESSIVE" PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. CONGO THINKS THERE SHOULD BE DISCUSSIONS WITH CABINDAN PEOPLE WHO MAY WANT THEIR INDEPENDENCE IN AN ANGOLAN FRAMEWORK (PERHAPS WITH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS DUE TO GEOGRAPHY) OR WHO MAY WANT IT SEPARATELY. OAU SHOULD PERHAPS SEND COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE ON THE SPOT. LOPES ADMITTED THERE IS ALWAYS DANGER THAT NEOCOLONIALIST POWERS WOULD SEEK TO TAKE OVER SUCH RICH AND UNDERPOPULATED TERRITORY, BUT HE NOTED THAT THIS HAD NOT PREVENTED ABU DHABI FROM BEING ALLOWED TO DETERMINE ITS OWN FUTURE. LOPES SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS CONSULTING REGULARLY WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU WHO POSITION ON CABINDA WAS SAME AS CONGO'S. "OUR WISH IS NOT TO GRAB CABINDA OR TO PROCLAIM ITS INDEPENDENCE TOMORROW, BUT TO MAKE SURE INTERESTED PARTIES DISCUSS MATTER WITH CABINDAN PEOPLE IN ORDER TO AVOID WAR ON OUR BORDERS TOMORROW. WE WILL NOT GIVE ARMS TO CABINDANS, BUT OTHERS MIGHT."

3. FRENCH AMBASSADOR ROSS TOLD AMBASSADOR LAST WEEK THAT MOBUTU'S VISIT TO BRAZZAVILLE ON FEBRUARY 6 AND GANAO'S RETURN VISIT TO KINSHASA FEBRUARY 14 WERE TO DISCUSS CABINDA. ROSS SAID HE HAD REPORTS (PRESUMABLY FROM FRENCH EMBASSY IN BRAZZAVILLE) INDICATING THAT PRESIDENT NGOUABI HAD NAIVELY AGREED TO LEAD INTERFERENCE FOR MOBUTU IN OAU ON SUBJECT OF SPECIAL INTERESTS OF ZAIRE AND CONGO IN FUTURE OF CABINDA. HIGH OFFICIAL IN ZAIREAN FOMIN CONFIRMED PRIVATELY TO AMBASSADOR MARCH 6 THAT ZAIRE AND CONGO HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON NEED TO EXPLAIN TO REST OF AFRICA THEIR JOINT VIEWS ON CABINDA. HE INDICATED GANAO HAD CLEARED HIS INTERVENTION AT COM WITH MOBUTU (PRESUMABLY ON HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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FEBRUARY 14 VISIT TO KINSHASA).

4. COMMENT: WHETHER THIS INTERESTING ALLIANCE CAN STAND STRAINS OF ZAIRE'S AND CONGO'S SEPARATE LOYALTIES TO RIVAL FNLA AND MPLA GROUPS IN ANGOLA AS WELL AS RIVAL CABINDAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. BUT AS ROSS REMARKED, MOBUTU HAS LITTLE TO LOSE AND MUCH TO GAIN AND THIS IS CERTAINLY EVIDENCE OF POLICY SHIFT BY ZAIRE TOWARD FAVORING CABINDAN

INDEPENDENCE IN OAU FORUM. INCIDENTALLY, CAR AMBASSADOR HERE SAYS
NGOUABI-MOBUTU MEETING ALSO INVOLVED PRESSURE ON MOBUTU
TO NOT PERSONALLY ATTEND FRANCOPHONE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
MEETING IN BANGUI.
HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CABINDA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINSHA01953
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750082-0357
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750373/aaaacniw.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BAMAKO 0754
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CABINDA: ZAIRE AND CONGO CLAIM SPECIAL INTEREST
TAGS: PFOR, CG, CF, AO, PO, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006